United Nations S/2002/56

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2002

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

1. The members of the Security Council, recalling the statement by the President of the Security Council on 31 January 2001 (S/PRST/2001/3) and relevant Security Council resolutions about peacekeeping, having considered the views expressed, including in the letters of a number of troop-contributing countries of 30 May 2001 (S/2001/535) and 22 June 2001 (S/2001/626), and recognizing the desirability of forging a more effective partnership with troop-contributing countries, including by establishing a new mechanism for cooperation pursuant to section D, paragraph 1, of annex I to Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) of 13 June 2001, in addition to the current forms of consultation between the Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat, have given their agreement to the principle of convening joint meetings of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries as an additional mechanism for strengthening cooperation with troop-contributing countries on specific peacekeeping operations.

2. The purpose of the joint meetings of the Working Group and troop-contributing countries is to enable the members of the Council, relevant troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat to engage in a closer and more interactive dialogue over issues pertaining to peacekeeping operations as outlined in paragraphs 2 and 4 of section B of annex II to resolution 1353 (2001) so as to complement effectively the ongoing process of consultation meetings pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution. At the joint meetings, specific aspects of peacekeeping operations will be discussed in order to facilitate the work of the Security Council and the Secretariat by taking into account the views of the troop-contributing countries in relation to a corresponding peacekeeping operation.

3. The joint meetings of the Working Group and troop-contributing countries will be composed of the members of the Security Council and relevant troop-contributing countries as identified by the Secretariat, in consultations with the Chairman of the Working Group, in particular those contributing at least one formed military unit or a comparable number of civilian police, as well as representatives of the Secretariat. In specific circumstances, when the agenda of those meetings exceeds the limits of the strict interest of the troop-contributing countries on the ground, the Working Group may invite other significant actors to attend the joint meetings when the Working Group deems their participation to bring added value to the discussion at hand. The Secretariat is encouraged to provide military, political, humanitarian and other briefings and advice as appropriate.

02-21172 (E) 140102

4. The Chairman of the Working Group, bearing in mind that the workload of the Security Council should not become unduly burdensome, in consultation with members of the Working Group, relevant troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat, will be responsible for convening the joint meetings of the Working Group and troop-contributing countries. Depending on the situation in specific peacekeeping operations, meetings will be held as often as necessary and practicable. In the case of new peacekeeping missions, joint meetings may be convened at an early stage in order to consult prospective troop-contributing countries during the mission planning process.

5. The joint meetings of the Working Group and troop-contributing countries will be chaired by the Chairman of the Security Council Working Group or an alternate Security Council member. The Chairman will invite members of the Working Group and the troop-contributing countries to participate, indicating the level he or she deems appropriate for specific meetings. As a general rule, the venue and time of such meetings will be published in the Journal of the United Nations. The procedures adopted for the joint meetings should be kept as flexible as possible to allow for interactive discussion by the participants.

6. The Chairman of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations will be responsible for reporting to the Security Council on the joint meetings. Such communication can take various forms, including oral briefings. The Secretariat will be requested to provide the necessary assistance in this regard and in other relevant areas.

7. The Security Council continues to commit itself to the implementation of resolution 1353 (2001). The existing formats of meetings with troop-contributing countries should be continued and improved according to the provisions contained in that resolution. Such meetings and the joint meetings of the Working Group and troop-contributing countries should be mutually complementary.

8. The new cooperation mechanism of the joint meetings of the Working Group and troop-contributing countries should not prejudice the responsibilities of the Security Council and its members as set out in the Charter and should not interfere in the operational responsibilities of the Secretariat for peacekeeping operations.